Press Release
For immediate release
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Note to Editors: High-resolution photos available at
http://uniontheater.wisc.edu/press/index.html

LOST WORLDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST: BEYOND THE HEADLINES

On Monday, April 21st and Tuesday, April 22nd at 7:30pm, filmmaker Rick Ray will present Lost Worlds of the Middle East in the Marquee at Union South. More information is available by calling the Box Office at 608-265-ARTS (2787). Tickets are: $12 General Public, $10 Wisconsin Union Member, UW-Madison Faculty & Staff, and $5 UW-Madison Student (with ID). Tickets for pre-show dinner are $17 and are
available through Friday, April 11th at 5:30pm. Pre-show dinners will take place in Varsity Hall III at Union South at 5:30pm. Buy tickets online (for Monday or Tuesday), call the Box Office at 608-265-ARTS (2787), or purchase in person at the Campus Arts Ticketing box office in Vilas Hall, 821 University Ave.

Since 1987, independent filmmaker Rick Ray has been documenting his unique ventures into parts unknown for audiences around the world. From Iceland to Ethiopia, Borneo to Bali, Ray’s films bring us glimpses of regions and cultures that are often misunderstood or misrepresented by mainstream media. *Lost Worlds of the Middle East*, his fearless exploration of the beautiful and conflict-ridden countries of Israel, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, brings us new perspectives on a region shrouded in controversy and misconceptions. With an open-minded curiosity and a dedication to better understanding these countries, Rick Ray brings his viewers a welcome insight into the realities of one of the most fascinating regions in the world.

From the Iraq War to the Arab Spring, the Middle East has been at the forefront of international news for decades. While popular news sources bring tales of brutality, conflict, and religious extremism, Rick Ray takes us beyond the headlines and into the heart of this diverse and paradoxical world. In his extensive travels, Ray finds teens in miniskirts roller-skating next to Shiite women in full veil in Lebanon; he encounters poverty and ruins in the midst of prosperity and growth. Billboards advertising American jeans intermingle with posters of religious figures. Behind it all, Ray finds people as diverse, unique, and fascinating as the countries they live in. Join him on April 21st or 22nd for a journey that goes far beyond what you’ll read in the newspapers.

This performance is sponsored by the Wisconsin Union Directorate’s Performing Arts Committee.